BATMAN™ FOREVER

The Official Poster Magazine Series

TITAN

GIANT
BATMAN & ROBIN
POSTER INSIDE

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THE BIRTH OF

CREATING GOTHAM

It was the stunning visual imagination of Production Designer Barbara Ling that brought BATMAN FOREVER to startling life. She in turn took her inspiration from the imagery in the Batman comic books through the years – and that source paid creative dividends. "The idea behind the look of the film was to go back to the comics and present an enormous amount of colour, washed colours and bright images," Ling told one interviewer. "We wanted Gotham to look like it stepped out of the pages of the old comic books and into modern times." The final, colour-saturated look of Gotham City, part physical set, part computer-generated wizardry, is brooding, majestic – and ominous. After a day on the set, Batman comic book editor and long-time writer of the character Denny O'Neil said, "I felt as though I were strolling through the inside of my own skull."

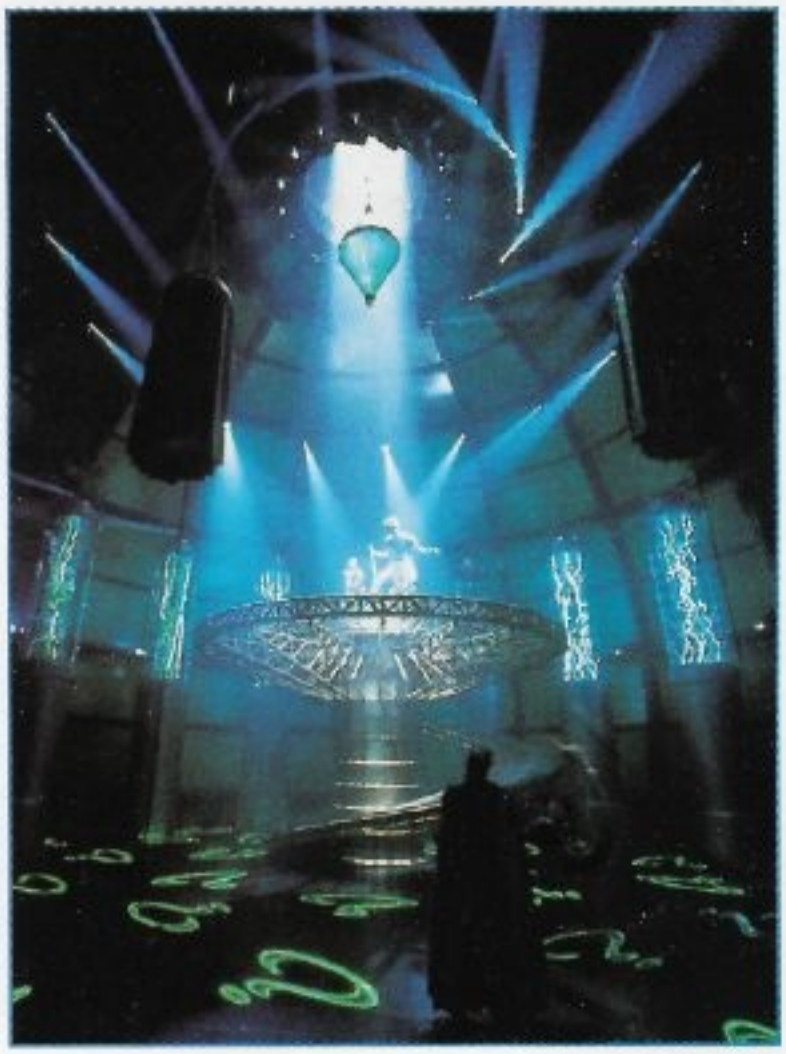
Ling supervised the look of almost every aspect of the film, working closely with Joel Schumacher to capture his vision of Gotham City.

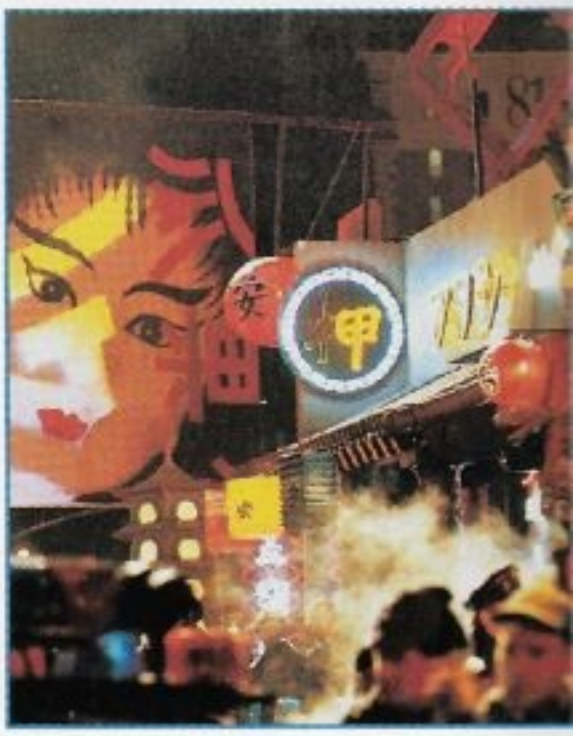
Over 70 sets were built for BATMAN FOREVER, compared with 15-20 for the previous Batman films. These were supplemented by computer generated images to produce the final effects. More than 50 people worked on the computer designs, breaking new ground as they went. That work also had an added dimension when exterior shooting in New York had to be blended with set work. "Many of the street scenes were filmed in the Wall Street area to get that cavernous look of narrow streets surrounded by 50-story buildings, ones that couldn't be constructed on sound stages. We brought in huge billboards and giant neon signs," Ling explains. The team also shone coloured lights on the walls of the skyscrapers to add colour and to enhance the comic book feel.

Ling was also responsible for the design of the Batcave and the Riddler's Lair, both built in the Spruce Goose hangar, the largest enclosed space in Los Angeles. The sheer size of the famous hangar, originally built to house eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes's 1940s airplane, enabled the Batcave to be built full-size. The Riddler's Claw Island set was a real challenge to create, and Ling was particularly pleased with the final result, which resembles a gigantic helium distillery.

Says Ling: "To do Batman you have to take a big approach to everything and go after monumental sets. *Everything* is bigger!"

To create a Gotham City alleyway, Ling added neon signs and gigantic sculptures to a Warner Bros. backlot set.
Below: Some typical Gotham City street scenes.
Left: The inner sanctum of the Riddler's Lair on Claw Island.





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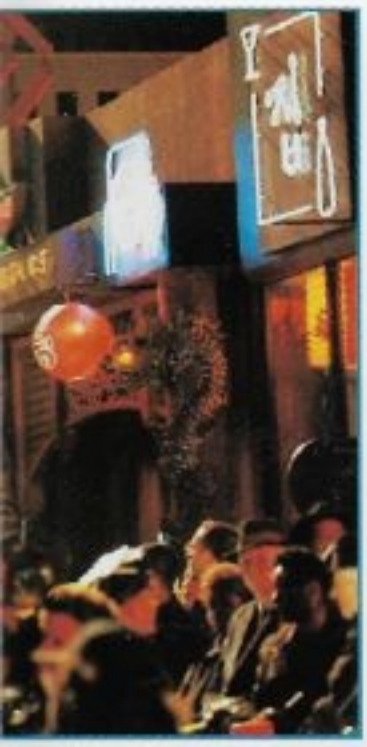

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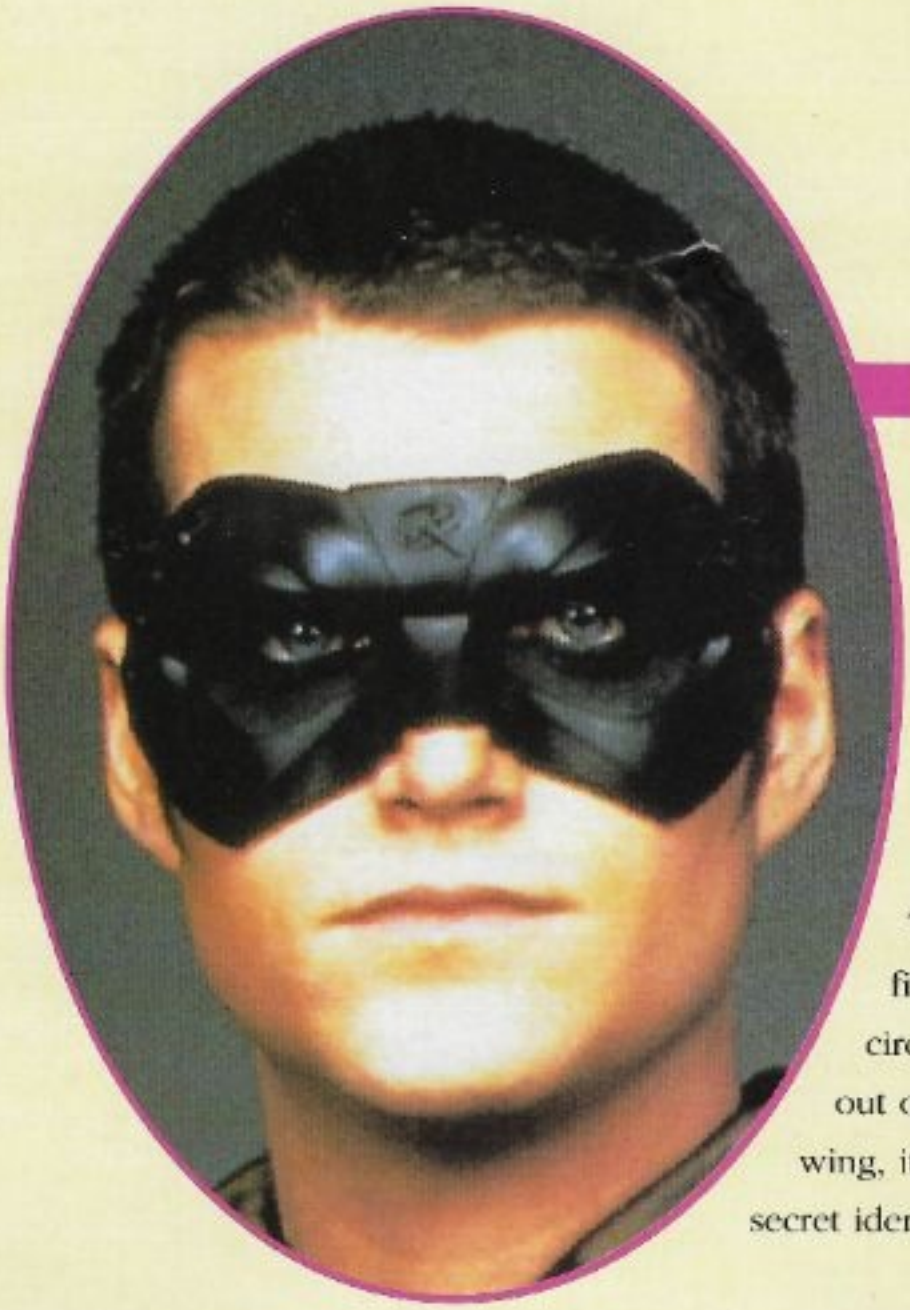

ROBIN/DICK GRAYSON

Robin is a comic book character right up there with the best of them – Superman, The Flash, and, of course, Batman. He first appeared in 1940 and has been a constant presence at Batman's side ever since, fighting crime on the streets of Gotham City. There have been several incarnations of Robin in the comics. For BATMAN FOREVER, director Joel Schumacher and the writers went to the original for inspiration, while drawing on elements of the more recent Robin personas to bring him up to date. This Robin wears an earring and rides a motorcycle. In the film, Robin is Dick Grayson of the Flying Graysons, a team of circus acrobats. After his family is killed by Two-Face, Dick sets out on a path of revenge. When Bruce Wayne takes him under his wing, it isn't long before the young man discovers his new guardian's secret identity – and Robin is born.

"Robin, or Dick Grayson, thinks Bruce Wayne is kind of a slick character. And he resents Batman because he thinks it's Batman's fault that his family got killed."

Chris O'Donnell

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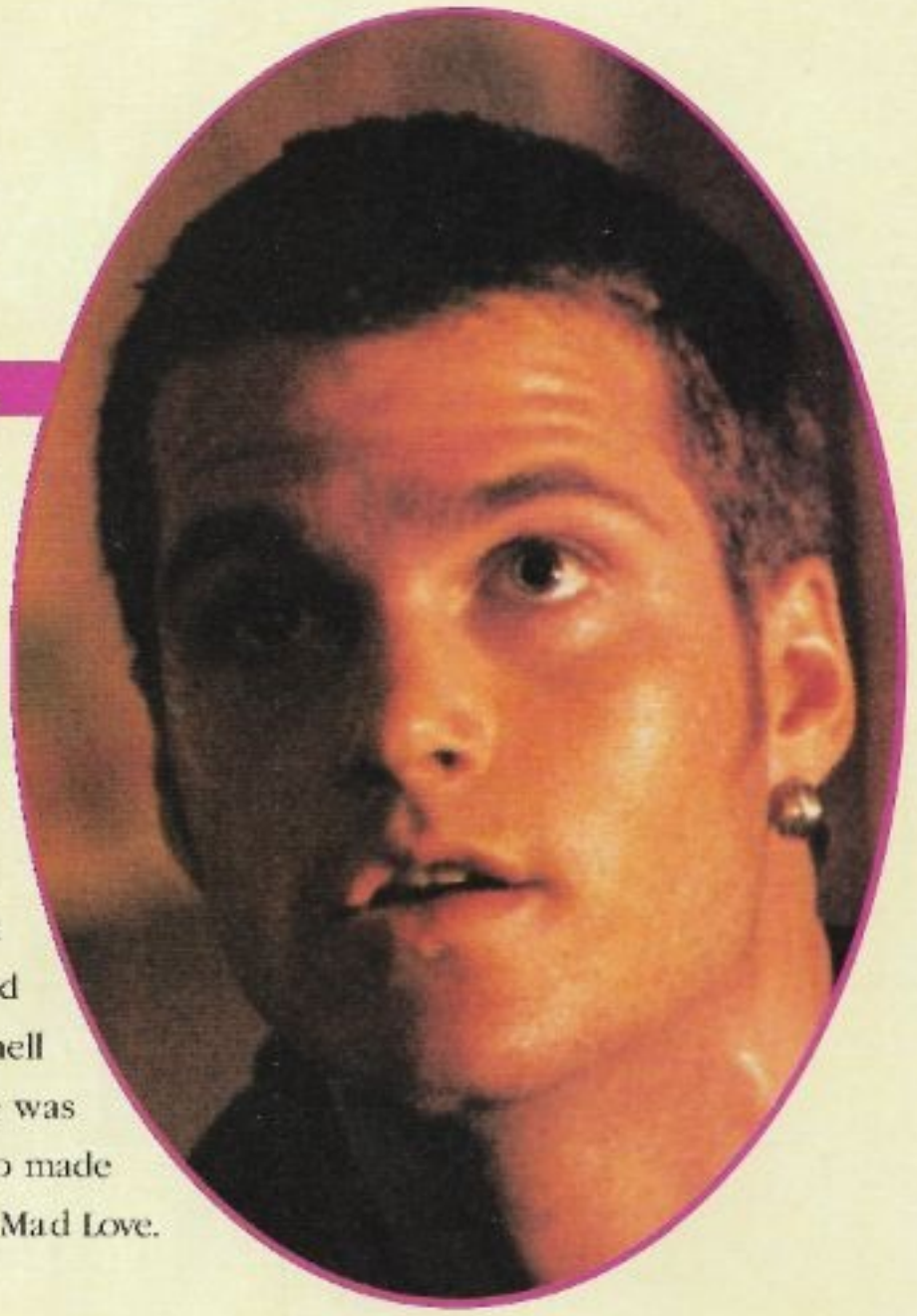
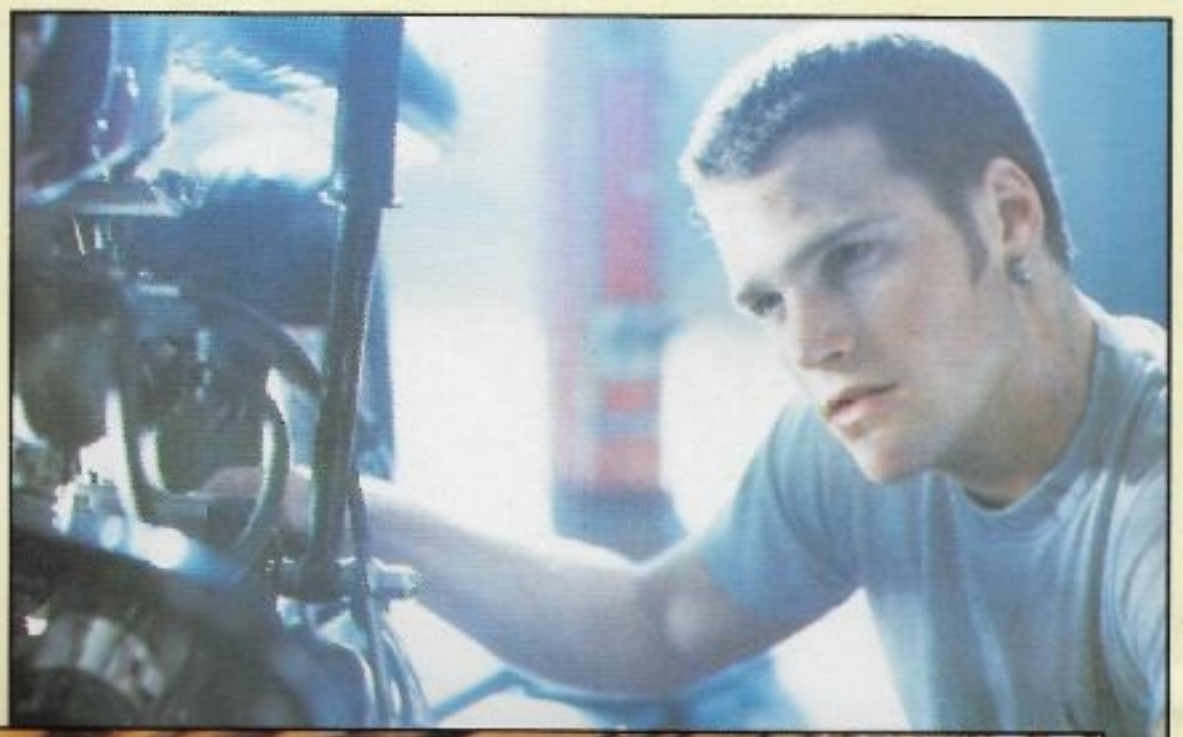
CHRIS O'DONNELL

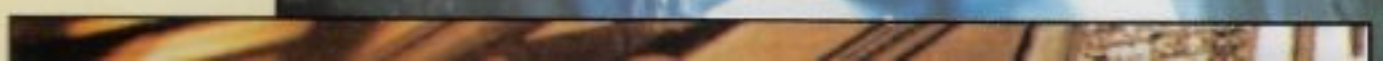


Who in the cast was the biggest fan of Batman before the shooting of BATMAN FOREVER started last year? Look no further than Chris O'Donnell, playing Robin, who says he still can't believe he's one of the heroes. He was making Circle of Friends when director Joel Schumacher gave him the big call. "I was so busy that it didn't really sink in," O'Donnell admits. He is a huge fan of the old Batman television series, and "I thought the opportunity to play a character that I'd grown up watching was really exciting. The image I had in my head was Dick Grayson and his family lived a Gypsy lifestyle, unconventional and unpredictable. That's why I went for a subtle Gypsy look." O'Donnell played opposite Al Pacino in Scent of a Woman, for which he was nominated for a Golden Globe award. The Chicago native has also made Men Don't Leave, The Three Musketeers and Mad Love.

***Right*: Dick Grayson's passion for motorcycles is awakened by one of Bruce Wayne's classic vehicles**



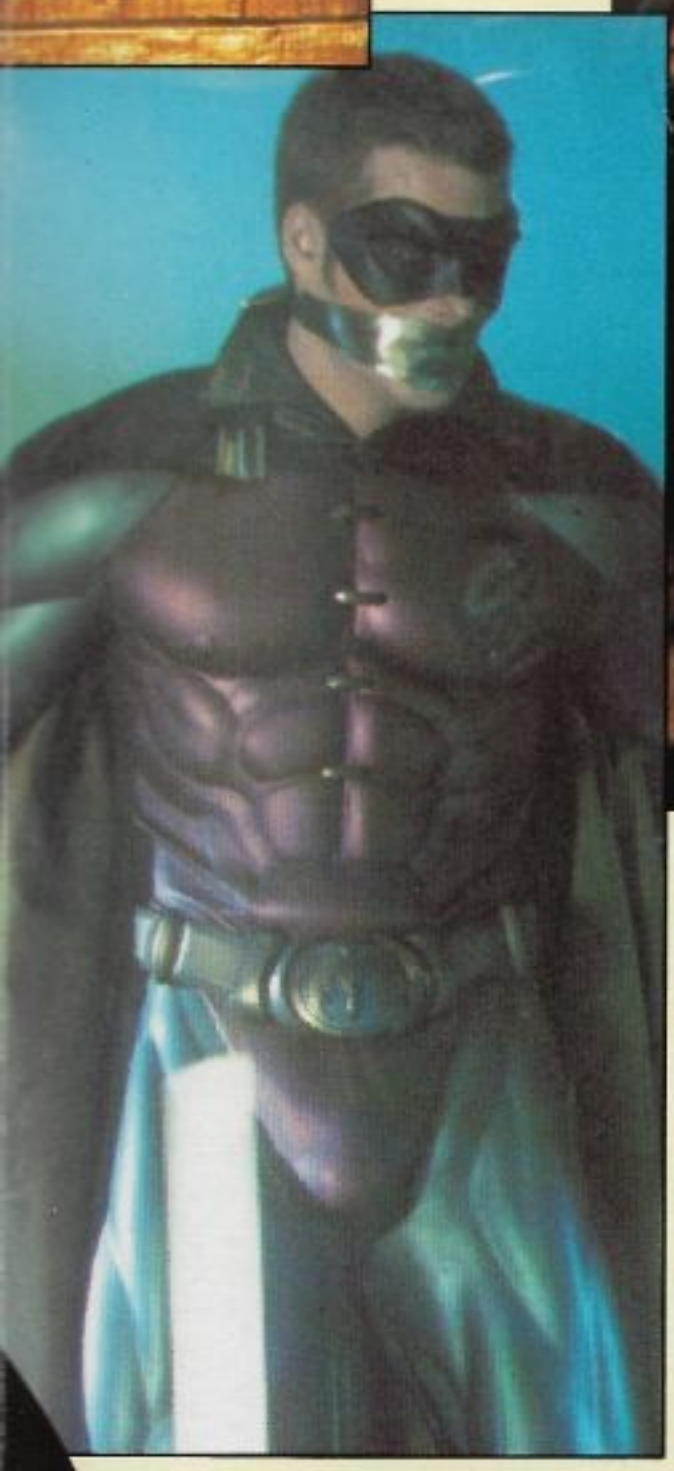
***Below*: Dick Grayson scales a wall in his attempt to uncover the secrets of Bruce Wayne's mansion**

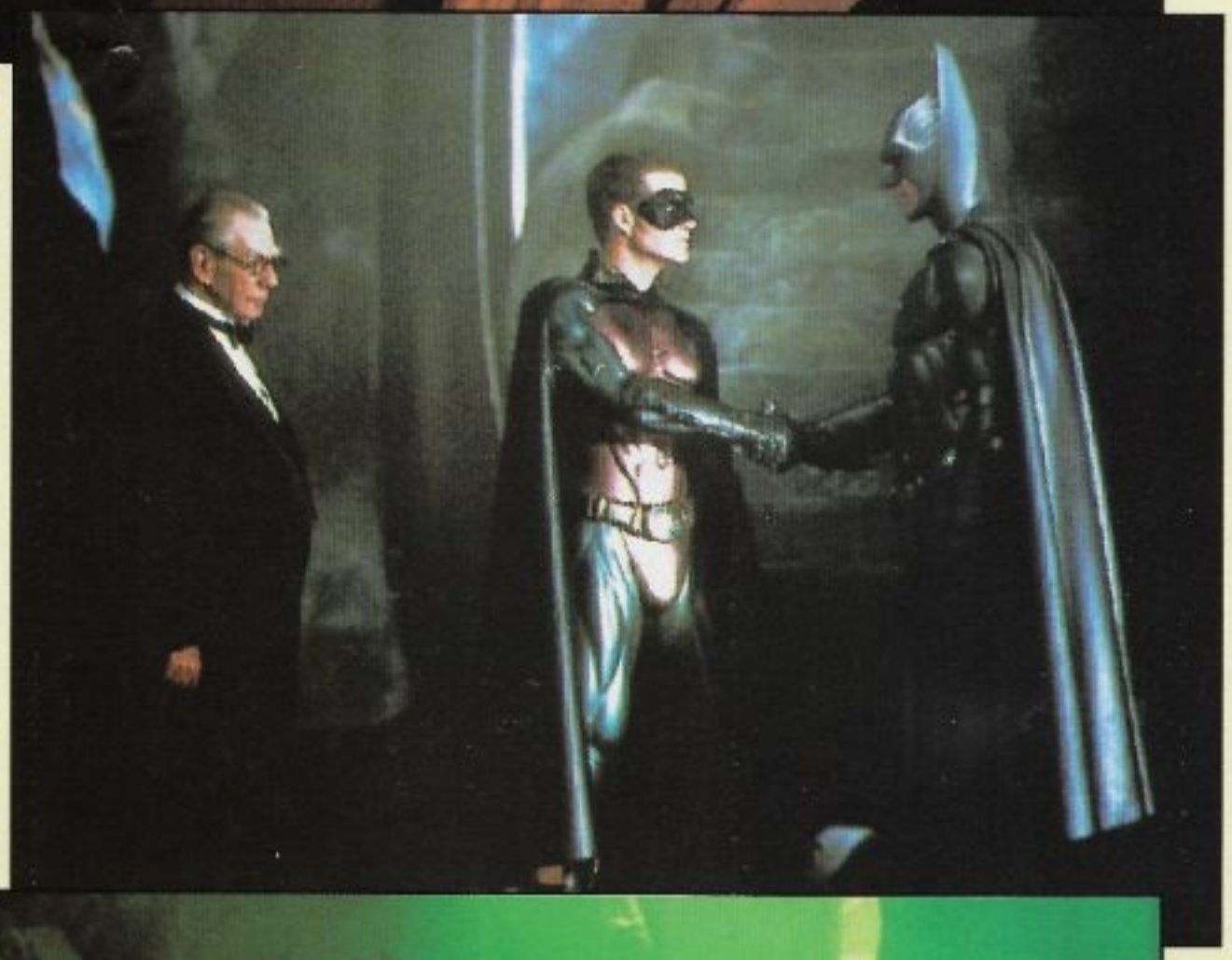


Below: Chris O'Donnell as Robin in the high-tech suit

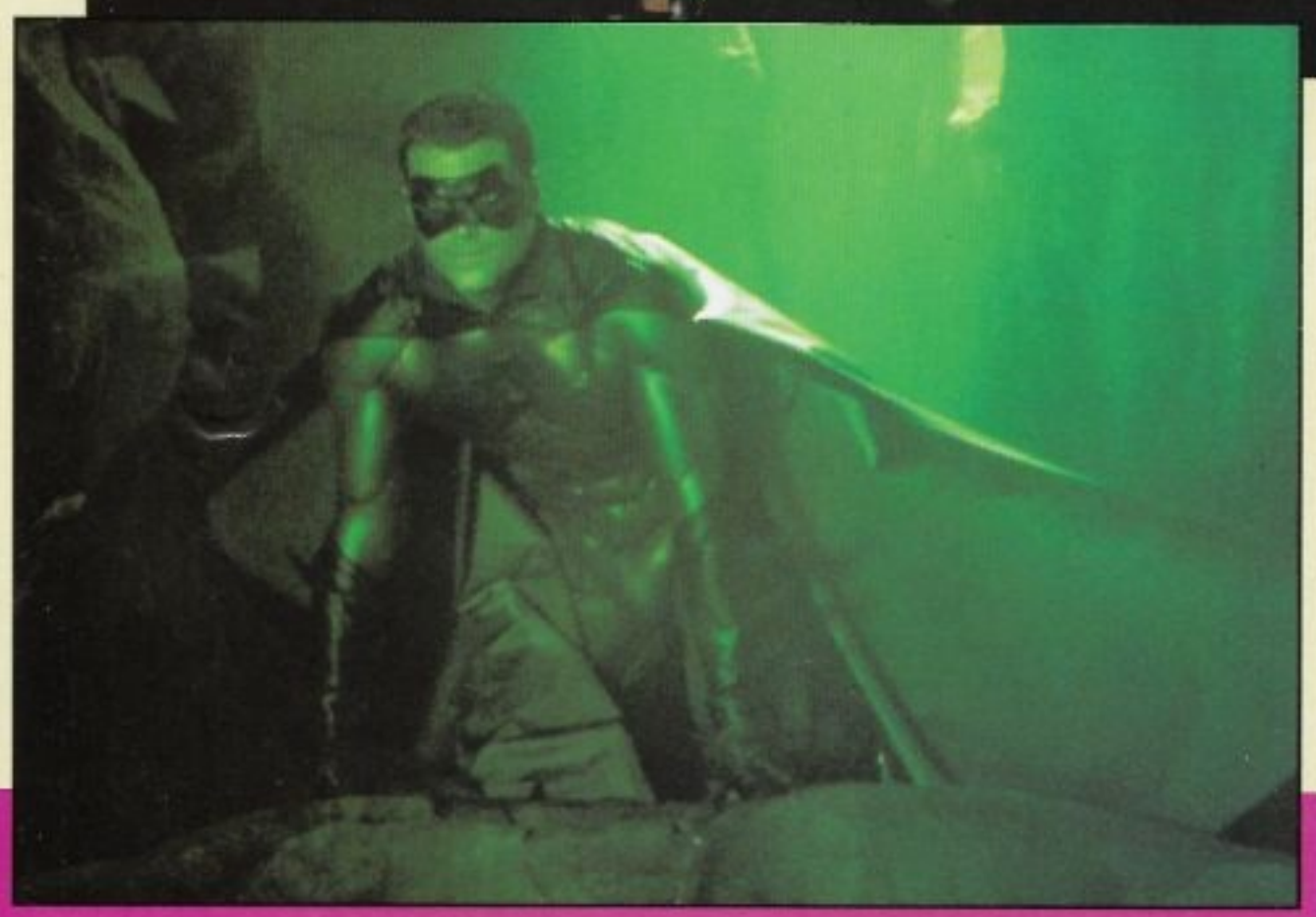
Top right: Dick Grayson, Dr Chase Meridian and Bruce Wayne arrive at Edward Nygma's party

Right: Robin is held captive in the Riddler's Lair

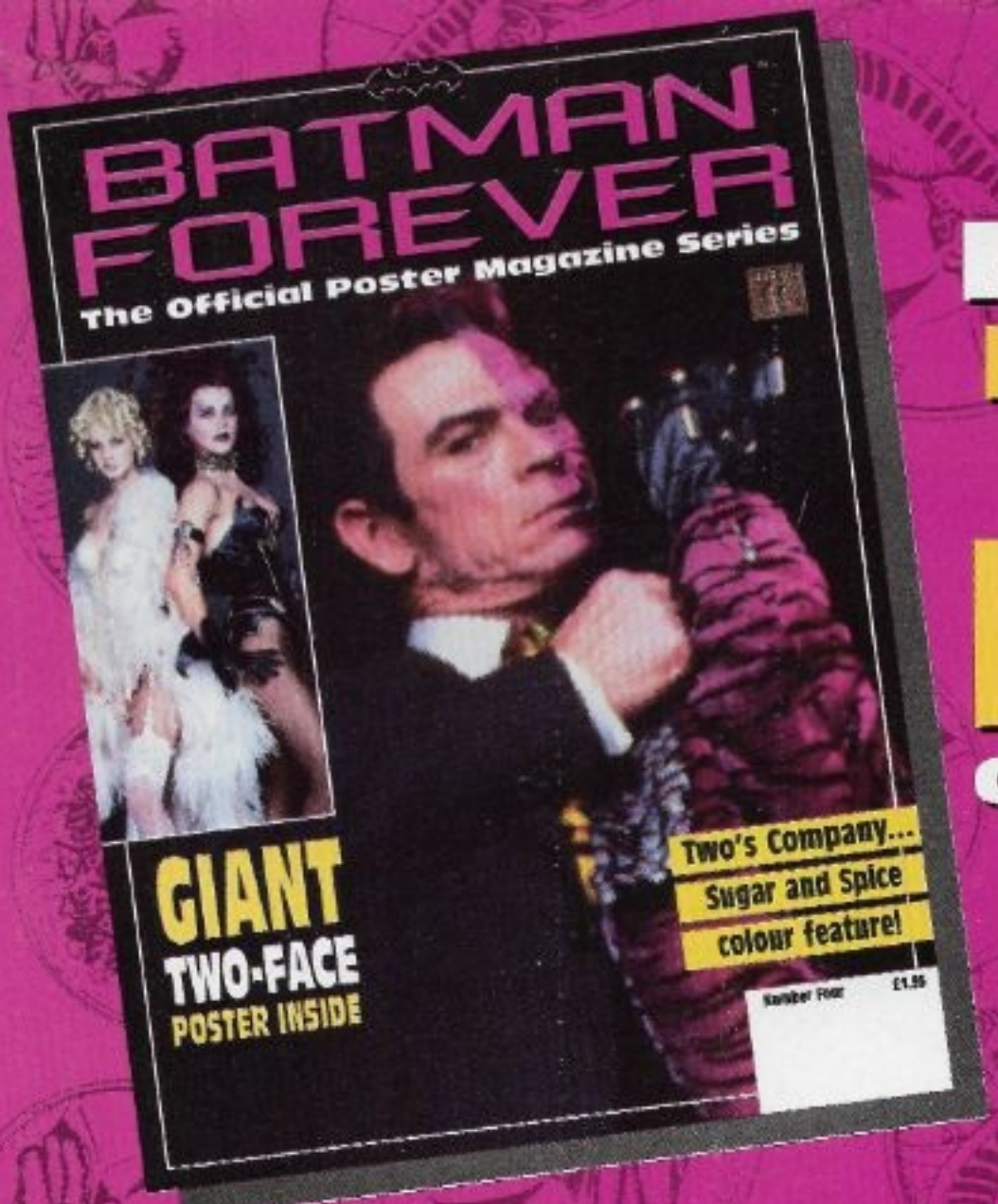




Right: **Robin and Batman shake hands as they embark on their first mission together**



Right: **Robin on the rocky shores of the Riddler's Claw Island**



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